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UNIVERSITY

Sans grants, researchers seek private funds

By Trevor Heise
@heisefeist

Ongoing budget cuts are taking their toll on UT researchers and students in the form of grant cancellations, delayed projects and diminished assistance from federal agencies. The government shutdown

earlier this fall caused UT researchers to miss important grant-submission deadlines and slowed the grant processing procedure, but John DiGiovanni, a cancer researcher and pharmacy and nutritional sciences professor, said these troubles are just the tip of the iceberg.

Federal funding for research grants has been on the decline, and automatic federal budget cuts — known as sequestration — have exacerbated the trend. For example, the National Science Foundation will accept nearly 1,000 fewer grant applications for this fiscal year. In addition, the National Institutes

of Health will be forced to cut its 2013 fiscal year budget by 5 percent — or \$1.55 billion.

“The meeting of the grant review panel that I serve on for the NIH has been cancelled,” DiGiovanni said. “On top of that, we’ve seen delays in funding for grants.”

President William Powers

Jr., who is the newly elected chairman of the Association of American Universities — a consortium of 62 public and private research universities — traveled to Washington D.C. early this November to speak with legislators and voice his concerns over the cuts, which, he said, impede students’

abilities to be a part of research that could change the world.

Economics professor Daniel Hamermesh said that in addition to a reduction in grant funding, cuts in administrative agencies such as the Department of Education and the

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16-0

Longhorns finish first perfect Big 12 season



Shweta Gulati / Daily Texan Staff

After accomplishing the feat nine times in the Southwest Conference, Texas completed its first undefeated conference season in the Big 12. Behind All-American outside hitters Haley Eckerman and Bailey Webster, the Longhorns’ height and power was too much for any other Big 12 team to counter. The Longhorns won all their conference matchups without ever having to play a fifth set.

By Evan Berkowitz
Daily Texan Columnist
@Evan_Berkowitz

For the 19th game in a row, the top-ranked Longhorns cruised to victory against Baylor on Saturday. They didn’t

need any final point heroics. They didn’t need any pressure-filled serves. Nor did they need any time-outs to counter an opposing team’s attack. Losing never crossed the record-setting crowd’s mind. And it has been that way this

whole conference season. This Texas team etched their names into the history books as the only team other than Nebraska (’00-’02, ’04) to go undefeated in the Big 12 play. “On senior night, they accomplished something that

no other class before has ever accomplished,” head coach Jerritt Elliott said. “We went undefeated in the Big 12, and it is a major accomplishment for this team.”

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“They accomplished something that no other class before has ever accomplished. We went undefeated in the Big 12, and it is a major accomplishment for this team.”

—Jerritt Elliott, Head coach

CITY

CapMetro plans upgrade for UT buses

By Christina Breitbell
@christinabreit

As the buses of the UT Shuttle and E-bus system become older, many students have noticed increasing unreliability within the system. The fleet of buses used by Capital Metro is scheduled to be replaced in 2015-16, according to Capital Metro spokeswoman Melissa Ayala. CapMetro is the transportation company that teams up with UT to provide free transportation around campus and

to downtown sites for students. As the replacement date nears, many students have come forward with complaints regarding complications within the bussing system. Plan II honors junior Grace Paulter said she recently became dissatisfied with the shuttle system. “I took the bus every day over the summer, and a few days it just didn’t show up,” Paulter said. “I ended up being late to class.”

METRO page 2



Johnathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

UT shuttle driver David Pulliam makes a routine stop on campus in a shuttle that is scheduled to be replaced in 2015.

UNIVERSITY

New AD Patterson has big changes to consider

By Matt Warden
@TheMattWarden5

Prominent personnel changes and arena developments will be on the plate early for the University’s new men’s head athletic director Steve Patterson. The University hired Steve Patterson from Arizona State last month to replace DeLoss Dodd, who will be retiring at the end of the year. With recent struggles in the school’s

major three sports — football, basketball and baseball — Patterson will be forced to make decisions soon. “I think when you come into any organization you want to take some time to evaluate the culture, the people that are here and where the organization is heading,” Patterson said at his introductory press conference on Nov. 7. “I want to help extend

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Check out a photo slideshow from this weekend’s basketball and football games.
dailytexanonline.com

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THE DAILY TEXAN

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 83 **Low** 59

My parents are really excited about this.

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO



Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

Austin Optimist club member O. Tripp Garza watches over his fellow member Mike Guajardo saw off the bottom of a Christmas tree.

UNIVERSITY

Engineering professor wins Honda Prize for computing

By Cinnamon Cornell
@CinnamonCornell

J. Tinsley Oden, director of the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, received the 2013 Honda Prize for his works in the field of computational mechanics.

The Secretariat of the Honda Foundation, Norie Yamamoto, said Oden is widely credited with the early development of computational mechanics — an integration of mathematics, computer science, physics and applied mathematics in order to solve problems in science and engineering.

“Oden’s work focuses on the theory and development of multi-scale models that

influence events such as that of atoms and electrons to full-scale systems, such as machines, aircrafts and automobiles,” Yamamoto said.

The Honda Prize, a non-profit established by the founders of the Honda Motor Company, is given to a person who has achieved results in the field of ecotechnology, which is described as “technology that advocates both the natural and human environments,” according to its website. It was established in 1977 and comes with a 10 million yen prize — which is a little less than \$100,000. Oden is the first UT professor to receive the prize.

Monica Kortsha, informational writer for the Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences, said Oden’s impact has been profound and wide-ranging.

“The Honda Prize recognized his role as an early supporter and cheerleader of sorts for [computational science], which in its early days was not being applied much outside of select industries,” Kortsha said.

Kortsha said computational science enables physical questions to be investigated in the digital realm. The science investigates theories via models, evaluates structures before they are built and studies past and future scenarios in present time.

“Computational science

works are defining problems mathematically, and then uses a computer to discretize those mathematical models into numerical parts that describe a physical phenomena,” Kortsha said. “These numerics are then often used to construct complex visual simulations.”

Kortsha said investigating scientific phenomena computationally allows easy consideration of multiple scenarios, as well as experimentation with designs that can be tested digitally, saving time and resources.

“It enables scientists to research problems that have been conventionally too complex to confidently study through traditional means, such as the movement of the earth’s tectonic plates, storm surges caused by hurricanes, and massive-scale drug screening,” Kortsha said.

Yamamoto said the computational mechanics Oden works in has allowed for the development of computer simulation technology, which is widely utilized in various fields and has improved product quality and safety.

Oden received the 34th Honda Prize on Nov. 18 at an award ceremony in Tokyo, where he delivered the laureate lecture.

“I was stunned and gratified to be treated with such hospitality,” Oden said. “My wife and I were treated like royalty.”

METRO

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The cost of maintaining the older buses with repairs is significantly less than the cost of replacing the fleet. Bus maintenance is approximately \$1.25 per mile, including parts and labor, according to Ayala.

“Vehicle replacements are based on combined mileage and age,” Ayala said. “Capital Metro has limited dollars for fleet replacement, so vehicles with the longest life span and highest mileage are replaced first. UT Shuttle buses have relatively low mileage for their age.”

CapMetro will be releasing the results of a students satisfaction survey in early January. Until then, the most recent survey is from 2011, with improved ratings from 2010 to 2011 in almost every category except a less than ten minute wait for the bus. While in 2010 74 percent of students said that the wait was less than ten

minutes, in 2011 there was a significant decrease with only 51 percent claiming this was the case.

Despite the lapse, CapMetro failed to meet their goal for improvement of service in 2012. The company’s goal for the service delivery index, which includes on time performance, vehicle accident rate, etc., was 6.7, but the actual service delivery index was 5.9.

Religious studies junior James Bussman, who commutes to campus every day from The Triangle, said the bus system has always been fairly reliable for him, but he does notice a difference in reliability.

“In general, I like the bus system because the drivers are always really courteous,” Bussman said. “The only time I notice that it’s late is when I really want to be somewhere and it’s not coming right when I want it to. It has been really late every once in a while, but only on days with unusual weather.”

GRANTS

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Environmental Protection Agency hamper those agencies abilities to collect raw data that UT researchers rely on.

“More funding is better, and these fields [the social sciences] are not highly paid,” Hamermesh said. “But what’s worse is killing important data sets.”

The decline of federal funding for basic research is not a new phenomenon. Historically, government dollars accounted for a majority of those spent on science research in

the United States, but that trend has reversed of late, with private and corporate research funding taking precedence.

Though researchers have lost the security of federal grants, some students, such as engineering sophomore Katherine Magee, see opportunities in growing private funding for research. “Government grants are certainly important in building the University, but so much of the research we have access to is in the private sector,” Magee said. “So for me, that private funding for research is almost more important than government grants.”

THE DAILY TEXAN

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the brand of UT throughout the United States and internationally. It's got all the resources it needs. It's got some great people that have been working in it for a long time, and I just hope to continue to grow that."

Patterson earned both his bachelor's degree in marketing in 1980 and a law degree in 1984 from UT. The first words he spoke in his introductory press conference were, "It's nice to be home."

Patterson boasts a lengthy professional sports resume. He led the Houston Rockets to prominence before its first NBA Championship in 1994, helped develop Houston's Reliant Stadium as senior vice president for the NFL's Houston Texans from 1997-2003 — a project that was the first in NFL history to be completed within budget and on time — and developed the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers into a perennial contender in his stint from 2003-07.

"The main reason Steve has been a success is because of his strong character and unprecedented business acumen," said Rocky Harris, Arizona State senior associate athletics director. "One attribute that really stands out about Steve is that he is an outstanding listener. He makes decisions with input from others and not in isolation."

New men's head athletic director Steve Patterson implemented a lot of change at Arizona State in his two years there en route to rasing revenue by \$8 million.

Sarah Montgomery Daily Texan file photo



Arizona State hired Patterson in 2012, a year after serving as the program's chief operating officer. The Sun Devils' football program emerged as a nationally ranked Pac-12 title contender after amassing a combined record of 31-31 from 2007-2011. Harris said the football team cut classroom absences from 141 in fall 2011 to 19 this past fall and the team increased total revenue by 37 percent.

Patterson's ability to build stadiums on time is another thing that will assist the basketball program. The Frank Erwin Center will be torn down in the next eight to 15 years to make room for a planned expansion of the Dell Medical School, and UT will have to find a new home for its basketball programs.

At Arizona State, Patterson planned and began a remodeling of Sun Devil Stadium, the move of the baseball team to Phoenix Municipal Stadium and the move of the golf team to Papago Golf Course.

Arizona State's student-athlete graduation rate recently hit 82 percent, the highest ever, which is almost 20 percentage points higher than Texas' 62.67 percent combined graduation rate for football, basketball and baseball.

"[Patterson] has a greater understanding of the student-athlete experience, and how important it is to treat

them like gold," Harris, who also worked with Patterson with the Texans, said. "They are students and their parents are trusting us to set them up for long-term success. [Patterson] is passionate about impacting the lives of young people."

But there's little doubt that Patterson's first series of decisions when he takes over fully will have to do with personnel, including Texas' three most prominent coaches: football head coach Mack Brown, men's basketball head coach Rick Barnes and baseball head coach Augie Garrido.

Patterson will have more resources to work with: Last year, UT spent more than double what Arizona State did — \$138.3 million compared to \$65.6 million — and brought in almost \$100 million more.

Harris said he believes Patterson's willingness to make big changes will propel Texas to the level it has become accustomed to.

"Steve is a change-agent who will come in and make the appropriate changes to make UT even stronger," Harris said. "Once he determines the right people and structure, Steve will build on a sustainable business by focusing on long-term goals like endowment while putting pressure on the department to succeed today on the field, in the classroom and in business."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Thomas Layer / Associated Press

After falling to Syracuse to open the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands, Texas rebounded to take down the No. 11 Aggies 69-58 before beating Memphis to finish its trip.

Longhorns upset Texas A&M in Virgin Islands tournament

By Jori Epstein @JoriEpstein

When sophomore guard Brady Sanders subbed in with 2:31 left Thursday night, the Longhorns were down 21 points to Syracuse. Sanders didn't let it faze her, though, draining a trifecta of 3-pointers and a free throw to bring her team within 10.

The Longhorns still fell to the Orange but used the near comeback as motivation to beat No. 11 Texas A&M and Memphis before leaving the Virgin Islands.

"I think some players didn't have much of a sense of urgency today," head coach Karen Aston said.

Texas allowed four Syracuse players to reach double-figures as a five-point halftime deficit grew. A season-high 23 turnovers were the main culprit — the Orange notched 24 points off turnovers alone.

Texas regrouped before Friday, as it trumped the

Aggies 69-58. Junior forward Nneka Enemkpali led the Longhorns with 20 points and 11 rebounds in her second double-double this season. Freshman center Kelsey Lang chipped in with 10 points during her first start.

"We did an excellent job coming off a loss from last night and not dwelling on it," Sanders said. "Everyone really understood what this rivalry means even though we're not in the same conference."

Sanders performed well in each of the weekend games, connecting on another three three-pointers against A&M and two against Memphis on Saturday in the Longhorns' 65-36 win. She finished the weekend 9-for-16 behind the arc, paired with what Aston described as "terrific defense" in which the Longhorns followed the game plan and were "extremely focused on responding to scouting reports."

Lang hit another

“We did an excellent job coming off a loss from last night and not dwelling on it.

—Brady Sanders, Sophomore guard

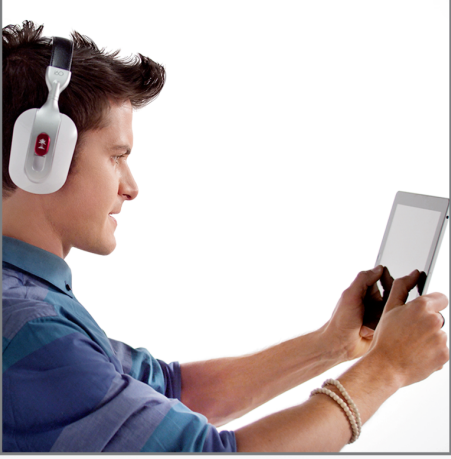
career-high 12 points with perfect second-half shooting. While Lang said her teammates' support was key in calming her nerves, Aston said Lang brings a new dimension to her teammates as well.

"Lang has opened up some room for Nneka because she has the ability to space the floor a little bit differently than our other post players do," Aston said. "She has a good feel in the post and she's a smart player."

Texas faces Arkansas-Little Rock on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Frank Erwin Center.



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EDITORIAL

New rules will help curb political activity of tax-exempt non-profits

Last Tuesday, the Obama administration proposed a new set of rules that would crack down on the use of “dark money,” or anonymously donated money, in political elections.

Though the proposed rules, released by the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service, do not apply specifically to Texas, there are more than a few Texas political organizations that would find themselves affected. Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, a project of the infamous tea-party activist Michael Quinn Sullivan’s Empower Texans group, may be the most prominent.

The proposed reforms are timely: In 2006, tax-exempt groups across the country spent only \$5.2 million on political activities. By 2012, that number had risen to \$300 million, suggesting that the checks of big-time donors had found their way to politically-oriented nonprofits.

Critics of the new regulations are already claiming that the proposed rules would do little, if anything, to stop anonymous corporate money from finding its way to political campaigns. But that doesn’t mean the administration is foolish for trying.

In a piece published last Tuesday in Politico, Byron Tau and Lauren French wrote that the new rules “are unlikely to stem the tide of anonymous donations that have flooded into politics since the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court decision.” That decision, made by a 5-4 vote, ruled that the government could not limit the ability of corporations to donate to political campaigns.

501(c)4s, the organizations targeted by the new rules, are currently defined as groups whose primary purpose is “social welfare.” However, the current tax code fails to clearly define what constitutes “social welfare.”

“Many election lawyers and their clients use an unofficial rule of thumb: If a tax-exempt group spends less than 50 percent of its budget on political activity, then its primary purpose is not winning campaigns,” explained a New York Times

article on the topic.

Under the draft of the new regulations, “social welfare” would exclude “candidate-related political activity.” What counts as candidate-related political activity? Under the draft, communications that expressly advocate for a candidate, campaign contributions and voter registration drives, among other activities, would all count.

There’s a justified concern from conservative groups that the new rules are meant to limit the influence of growing grassroots organizations.

“I think it’s Obama’s revenge against people who have been participating in the process on the other side from him,” Charles Spies, the founder of the Pro-Mitt Romney Restore our Future Super PAC, told Politico about the new regulations.

It’s hard to forget the recent IRS scandal, in which the agency was found to have been excessively auditing tea-party organizations that had applied for nonprofit status.

As concerning as the potential implications for free speech is that the new rules would apply only to 501(c)4 entities, meaning that donors looking to obfuscate their actions can simply elect to check a different box on their tax form and ignore the new rules entirely. For example, organizations may easily escape the new regulations by converting into a Limited Liability Corporation, or LLC, which would not be subject to the new rules.

It should be noted that the problem isn’t that corporations are donating to political campaigns, but rather that they are doing it anonymously through nonprofit organizations, making it impossible to track who is funding whose campaign.

These regulations then, though well-intentioned and on point, are problematic in that they regulate nonprofit entities, not the action itself of corporations anonymously donating large sums of money. But unless the Supreme Court reverses Citizens United, these new rules may be the best we can do to limit the influence of corporate America in

GALLERY



“Four votes for Bill Powers. Five votes left. Once the votes are read, the decision is final, the person voted out will be asked to leave the campus immediately.”

Illustration by Ploy Buraparte / Daily Texan Staff

HORNS DOWN: TEXAS NEEDS TO DO MORE TO SPOT CHEATING

In yet another instance of test tampering run amok, a federal audit has found that the Texas Education Agency is dropping the ball on its cheating prevention methods. The audit, put out by the U.S. Department of Education, shows that Texas, which has shown evidence of test manipulation, is turning a blind eye to these inappropriate interventions by forgoing analytical tools that have exposed other cases of cheating. While we have our issues with the weight placed on standardized test scores, changing student responses is not the way to go about creating change. The state should do more to ensure test scores accurately reflect the answers filled in by students on test day.

HORNS UP: HOMELESSNESS IS ON THE DECLINE

Texas’ homeless population has declined by 13 percent since 2012 and over 25 percent since 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Annual Homeless Assessment Report, released in November. It’s heartening to hear that, while the U.S. economy has fluctuated over the past six years, the number of our fellow citizens chronically lacking housing has consistently fallen. We hope that as our state’s economy booms the benefits reach the nearly 30,000 Texans who still don’t have homes.

HORNS UP: TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD GRANTS SAME-SEX BENEFITS



Last Tuesday, the Texas National Guard announced that it would begin offering marriage benefits to same-sex couples, in accordance with the Pentagon’s official policy. Until last week, Texas was one of just three states with national guards that continued to resist Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s August order to offer benefits to same-sex couples on the basis that the state constitution prohibited equal treatment of same-sex marriage. Now, only Georgia and Louisiana remain in defiance of the order. We’re disappointed that our state national guard attempted to hold out against equality for as long as it did, but it’s good that its discriminatory show of resistance is finally over.

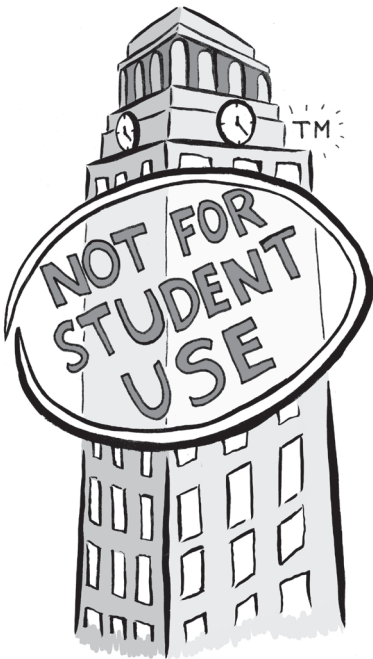


Illustration by John Massingill / Daily Texan Staff

COLUMN

Current trademark policy leaves student organizations out of luck



By Rachel Huynh
Daily Texan Columnist
@racheljhuynh

The glowing Tower, burnt orange, the signature longhorn outline. These are all marks that will always be inextricably tied to the 40 Acres. They are more than just images — they serve as symbols of the traditions that come with being a part of our University. Why is it, then, that trademark rights for these signature symbols are so difficult for student organizations to gain access to?

Merchandise with these symbols seems to only come from official University offices, such as UT Athletics. This is because the Office of Trademark Licensing currently has very stringent restrictions in place dictating which groups can use these trademarked symbols.

“Only student organizations officially sponsored by a University office can access the University’s brand marks, which means that many of our student organizations have not been able to represent their spirit at University-approved events using UT-Austin marks and colors,” said Kathleen Mabley, director of brand marketing and creative services. This means that a huge number of hardworking student organizations have not been eligible to even request use of official marks and colors.

Why don’t student organizations just apply for official University sponsorship, then? First, there’s bureaucracy involved — you have to apply through the Office of the Dean of Students and get approved by the vice president before applying for trademark use with the Office of Trademark Licensing. Second, being sponsored means the organization’s purposes and activities must align with an academic or administrative unit, and a sponsor has to endorse, support, supervise and assume an oversight role for all aspects of the organization. Many organizations dedicated to the extracurricular enrichment of students don’t necessarily have a purpose that is directly affiliated with the University, and there are only so many hours of a professor or administrator’s day that can go toward serving as an adviser. It would be impossible

“There is a great deal of pride in being affiliated with the University of Texas, particularly for our student organizations. At the same time, a strong brand needs to be protected and managed.

—Kathleen Mabley
Director of brand marketing and creative services, UT Trademark Office

to sponsor even half of the registered student organizations on campus.

While restricting use of University trademarks is understandable, prohibiting nearly all — more than 90 percent of student organizations — from even applying for use of the official marks and colors is unreasonable. Perhaps this policy was bureaucratic oversight from years past, but the message it sends is clear: The University doesn’t think general student organizations can adequately represent the UT brand. To assume that none of the non-sponsored student organizations on campus are capable of representing the University’s marks and colors in a respectable manner is to unreasonably expect very little of the majority of students.

This is not a new issue. Student Government has been working closely with Mabley and Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lilly on these rigid trademark limitations for several years now. “After several meetings with UT Athletic Director Chris Plonsky over two years, we were able to come to an agreement that access should be granted through negotiated terms that Ms. Mabley and Dean Lilly championed,” said Nash Horne, former Student Government associate director and current student regent.

These new terms should be finalized within the coming months, according to Mabley. “The University believes that it is important to make the marks accessible to campus — but in a way that protects the brand value of the marks,” Mabley said. “When complete, the recent policy changes will clarify how registered student organizations — with the exception of political and religious student organizations — may apply for use of UT-Austin logos and trademarks.” Aside from extending the application for trademark use to all registered student organizations, the Office of Trademark Licensing also has plans to launch a new brand guidelines website to communicate the changes more clearly.

“There is a great deal of pride in being affiliated with the University of Texas, particularly for our student organizations,” Mabley said. “At the same time, a strong brand needs to be protected and managed.” Though the updated application for trademark use has not yet been released, the fact that Dean Lilly, Mabley and Plonsky have worked extensively with Student Government over two years to resolve this issue speaks volumes about the University.

“This conversation of policy change was something students for 20-some years dreamed of seeing, and it is through the leadership of these incredible women that we are here today,” Horne said.

Where we are, however, is still only the brink of change. Though the involved offices seem confident that change is coming within this school year, the only thing that’s certain is that they must be held accountable to their promises. Only then will there be equal opportunity for trademark rights for all student organizations.

Huynh is a Plan II and business honors sophomore from Laredo.

CLUB SPORTS



Jonathan Garza / Daily Texan Staff

Linguistics graduate student Elena Liskova practices her kicks at Gregory Gym as part of her karate training. Members of UT's Japan Karate Association of Austin are motivated to seek perfection in both physical and mental aspects of karate.

Karate kids seek perfection

By Haoting Liang
@HaotingLiang

Everyone knows how to kick or punch, but being able to do it with karate's perfect, textbook style takes effort and practice. After each repetition, Karatekas — practitioners of karate — must pause and think to straighten their knees, turn their hips, pull their hands back quickly, turn their fists over at exactly the right moment and strike. Perfection is hard to achieve, but members of UT's Japan Karate Association of Austin seek it as their motivation.

"We are guided by the precepts in our Dojo Kun [training place rules], and the first precept in our Dojo Kun is to seek perfection of character,"

the association's sensei Tom Pilon said about karate's training methods. "We are not doing karate; we are building people and we are building them to understand what perseverance is." Pilon teaches Shotokan, the most widely recognized style of karate. In English, karate is translated to "empty hand," and Shotokan is renowned as the foundation of all weaponless traditional martial arts. It has a color belt ranking system — kyu — ranging from ninth to first. After earning a first-degree black belt, its participants rise through the ranks of dan, ranking from first to tenth. "Within Shotokan, tenures of 20 to 50 years are common," Pilon said. "These long tenures are only possible

because of seeking perfection, and there is no other motivation that I know of that creates this amount of tenure." Hema Movva, engineering graduate student and president of UT's association, said seeking perfection of character is applicable to not only physical but also mental aspects of karate. "Most of the techniques we practice on the floor end up being very far from perfection, so we need to constantly introspect ourselves and refine our perception of perfect techniques," Movva said. Shotokan has three major components: Kihon (basics), Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring), which all require great conditioning of body and mind.

Andrea Keidel, physics graduate student who is from Germany, said karate requires an abundance of physical and mental training. "It's the thing that your body isn't used to doing necessarily, so there are lots of coordination, right hand and left hand, maybe there are something else in your right foot and left foot," Keidel said. "The progress is slow, but you need to be patient and enthusiastic." While success on tournament stages are important, it pales in comparison to the development of character and pursuit of perfection Shotokan provides. "We all intrinsically know that perfection is impossible, and yet we keep trying year after year," Pilon said.

PERFECT continues from page 1

Texas dominated in Big 12 play this season. The Longhorns won 48 sets and lost only seven. They also hit a league high .295 and allowed a league low .174 from their opponents. Texas hasn't needed a fifth set since non-conference play against — who else — Nebraska in late September. Technically, it isn't the first time in the program's history Texas went undefeated in conference play: it did it nine times as a member of the Southwest Conference. But this feat is

more impressive, as teams only had to win 10 games then and they need 16 now. "It's the first time in the Big 12," Elliott said. "I don't want to take anything away from what those kids did in the Southwest Conference." Some of Texas' success can be attributed to its weak conference. The only other ranked teams in the Big 12 are No. 12 Kansas and No. 22 Iowa State. Texas no longer worries about No. 5 Missouri or No. 8 Nebraska, who both shifted from the Big 12 following conference realignments in 2011. "There is no breezing

through a conference," said Nell Fortner, the Longhorn Network commentator and member of the 1981 AIAW National Championship Longhorns team. "You are challenged day in and day out." The real reason is the quality of the players. "This team is really different than last year," senior setter Hannah Allison said. It's a sentiment echoed by many members of last season's national championship team. Still, it's the same talent. The starting lineup is identical at all but one position. All-American junior outside hitter Haley

Eckerman is playing six rotations, a different role than last year. Freshman Chiaka Ogbogu replaced Shadare McNeal at opposite. The bench is a bit different, but, for the most part, it's the same group. "The personnel may be similar," Elliott said. "But it's a better team." The NCAA selection committee announced Texas as a No. 1 seed Sunday, and now Big 12 play is behind the team. A second national championship is the goal, but, no matter the result of a repeat bid, the undefeated Big 12 season will live on.

HOPE continues from page 6

12 championship — at least a share of one — since 2009. A conference title for this team was almost inconceivable two months ago and, even now, holds the same sense of disbelief. This team is led by a group of players whose strengths are nearly equally foiled by what should be insurmountable faults. A fill-in quarterback that exudes moxie but can't chunk the ball farther than 30 yards consistently? Check. A No. 1 wide receiver that makes spectacular catches and plays but often lets simple catches bound off his hands? Check. A legendary coach on the brink of unemployment, fighting to keep his job? Yep, the Longhorns have that too.

This Texas team is essentially an extension of a TV drama, a sequel to "Friday Night Lights," if you will. The elements are all there, anything a producer could think to throw at this team has been leveled this season. A young quarterback star falling to injury early in the year, a coach fired because of poor performance, injuries to a different player nearly every week: It's all there, even suspensions and some last-minute game-winning magic, results which seem more appropriate in a perfect script than for Texas. The Longhorns have been counted out frequently this season, but they've always clawed back. After two early losses and the dismissal of Manny Diaz, Texas reeled

A top 10 team stands in the way of a Big 12 championship and redemption for a senior class that's suffered through the worst four-year stretch at Texas in two decades.

off six-straight wins, including an upset of rival Oklahoma. When Texas suffered its worst home loss in the Mack Brown era against Oklahoma State, it didn't wallow. Instead, the Longhorns held the Red Raiders to their lowest point total in two seasons in the win. It's almost the season finale. With two episodes remaining, the producers have the opportunity to deal Texas a resounding triumph or yet another taste of defeat. Baylor will be the Longhorns' penultimate challenge. A top 10 team stands in the way of a Big 12 championship and redemption for a senior class that's suffered through the worst four-year stretch at Texas in two decades. A history of cheesy movies and unforgettable dramas says Texas' cast of challenged characters will come away with the victory. But this is where fiction and fact separate; no producer will yell cut if the Longhorns fall behind. The end of the script is blank. It's up to the Longhorns to fill it.

RUSHING continues from page 6

issues, ran for 102 yards and a touchdown against the Red Raiders. The Longhorns had two 100-yard backs on the night as junior running back Malcolm Brown recorded 128 yards himself. Texas' running game took a shot when Gray got injured against West Virginia earlier this month. The remaining backs for the Longhorns have been able to fill the hole in the ground game without Gray, as Bergeron and Brown have held up their end of the work.

Big 12 title hope remains intact After Texas started the season 1-2 for the first

time since 1998, many laughed at head coach Mack Brown when he said a hope for a Big 12 title still remained. Eight games later, that faith is still intact. The Longhorns no longer control their own destiny after losing to Oklahoma State two weeks ago, but their rout of Texas Tech brought back some hope. Texas needs to beat Baylor on Saturday for at least a share of the conference championship, and, if Oklahoma beats Oklahoma State, the Longhorns have a chance for the outright title. Look for Texas fans to root for their Red River rivals this weekend as they watch the Longhorns take on the Bears in their last game at Floyd Casey Stadium.

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

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OLYMPIC GAME HOSTS Solution: 11 letters

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A Z T X N N C R M I D H A E S
I L A O E O E E U G T K H L U
S I L Y U M L M N G O C E O A
S Z Y V A B N I C R K O L N M
U A E N O I K H E E Y T L A S
R R P U A D A A O E O S I D T
A B R P E M S E L C R I L A E
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E S I N C R A E O K N A R A D
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TEXAS TECH

Longhorns' unlikely script continues

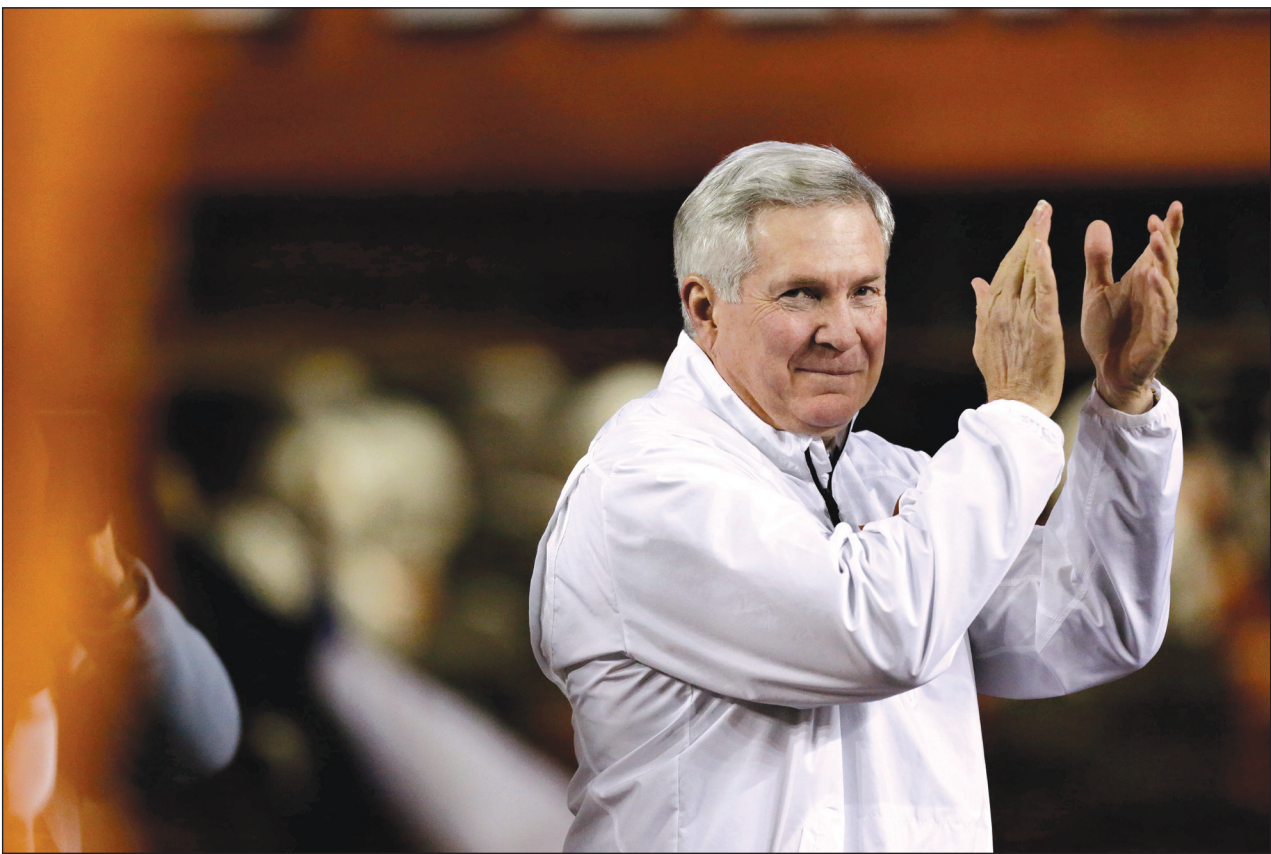


By Chris Hummer
Daily Texan Columnist
@chris_hummer

The Longhorns strutted off the field after their win over Texas Tech, the merri-ness of the “Eyes of Texas” radiating from their faces. Seniors, especially, in their last night at Darrell K Royal–Texas Memorial Stadium, portrayed a healthy dose of holiday-like spirit.

Players quickly dressed to head out of the stadium, as parents waited to whisk them home for a quick post-Thanksgiving visit.

But, as many students roll into campus Sunday, drag-ging in leftovers and clean laundry, the Longhorn play-ers will have shifted their fo-cus to Baylor. The team is one week away from its first Big



Chelsea Purgahn / Daily Texan Staff

Head coach Mack Brown smiles on as Texas routed Texas Tech 41-16 on Thanksgiving. Since a loss to Ole Miss and calls for his job, Brown’s team has won seven of eight and finds itself in contention for a Big 12 championship.

HOPE page 5

Defensive front pushes Texas past the Red Raiders

By Garrett Callahan
@CallahanGarrett

In its second game with-out the Aggies on Thanks-giving, Texas was able to run past Texas Tech 41-16 in the final home game of the season. With a game against conference-leading Baylor remaining, here are four key aspects to take from Thursday’s game:

Defensive front plays big role in Texas’ success
Texas has had its struggles

on defense this year, but, since defensive coordina-tor Greg Robinson has taken over the play calling duties from Manny Diaz, much has improved on the defensive front. So far this season, the Longhorns have recorded 35 sacks with nine of those coming against Tech. All of Texas’ sacks this season have come in its eight wins.

Senior defensive end Jackson Jeffcoat, who played more of a linebacker role Thursday, recorded a

career-high three sacks in the game. Junior Cedric Reed added to the pass rush with two of his own, while also adding five tackles.

Case McCoy strong in his final home game

Senior quarterback Case McCoy played in his last home game of his career Thursday coming off his worst performance of the season against Oklahoma State. McCoy tallied three interceptions with no touchdowns against the

Cowboys to break Texas’ six game winning streak.

McCoy threw for 180 yards against Texas Tech as he passed for two touch-downs and ran for another. The Graham native com-pleted 10 of his 19 passes for an average of 7.3 yards a play.

“I understand I didn’t give my team a chance to win last week,” McCoy said. “Your job is to take care of the ball and manage the game, like I said I did tonight. It’s good in this

stadium to bounce back and have a game like that.”

Texas still strong without Johnathan Gray

Junior running back Joe Bergeron wore No. 32 Thursday night in honor of injured sophomore run-ning back Johnathan Gray, but, instead of just taking his number, he also took his identity. Bergeron, who has had limited playing time this year with fumbling

RUSHING page 5

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2 QB hits

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9 tackles

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5/5 FG

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2. Ohio State
3. Auburn
4. Alabama
5. Missouri
6. Oklahoma State
7. Stanford
8. South Carolina
9. Baylor
10. Michigan State
17. Oklahoma
25. Texas

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Joe Capraro / Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore guard Demarcus Holland dropped 23 points as Texas escaped UTA 72-69 Friday. After averaging just 3.6 points per game last year, he has averaged 12 this season.

Texas' second half rally helps it escape UTA

By Chris Hummer
@chris_hummer

Texas hasn't made the second half easier on itself this season, but the Long-horns have still come up clutch. Texas showed yet another example of that Friday evening.

Texas (6-1) trailed by as many nine points in the second half, but charged late with a 14-1 run to snag a 65-61 lead at the 4:54 mark. The Mavericks (2-6) played tough the rest of the way, but the Longhorns en-dured for their fourth sec-ond half comeback-victory of the season.

“They’re teaching me some character,” head coach Rick Barnes said. “I’m about ready to kill them some-times because I watch them play. But I know they’re a great bunch of guys and they want to play. ... We have to do our work early, which we didn’t do.”

Sophomore guard De-marcus Holland made the biggest play of the game when he ripped the ball away from Reger Dowell and charged down court for a two-handed dunk.

It gave Texas a 70-69 lead with 1:03 left. He also had a career-high 23 points and 11 rebounds for his first career double-double.

“Demarcus Holland, what can I say?” Barnes said. “He’s really every-thing you want in a play-er. He’s really become the leader of the team. He’s talking like a leader should talk.”

Sophomore center Cam-eron Ridley recorded his third double-double of the year for the Longhorns with 10 points and 11 re-bounds. He also played a career-high 37 minutes, showing improved condi-tioning since he arrived at Texas at 312 pounds. He’s now listed at 280.

“He’s worked at it,” Barnes said. “He’s gotten himself in better condi-tion. ... Cam really has improved. If you put time in, you should expect good things and his confidence should grow.”

Ridley and the Long-horns will face Vander-bilt (4-2) Monday at the Frank Erwin Center in what will be Texas’ stiffest early-season test.

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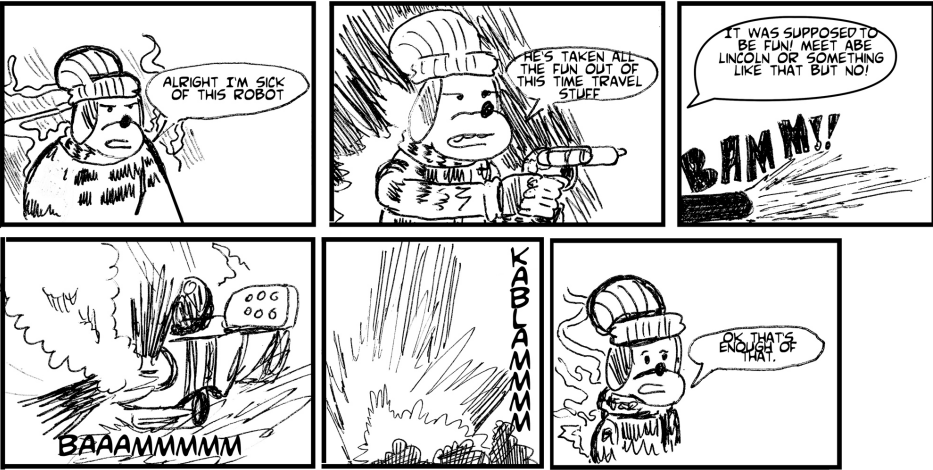
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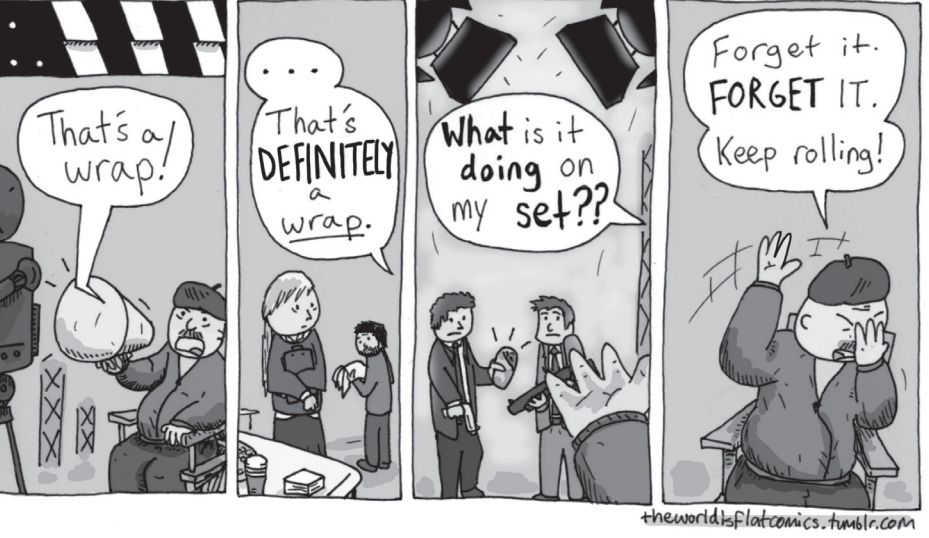
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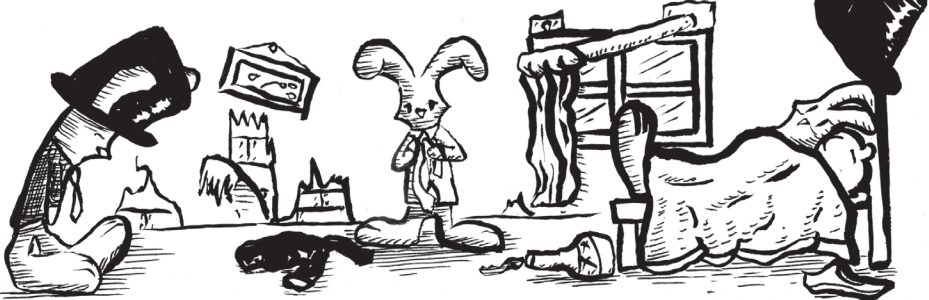
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4	9	8	3	2	5	1	7	6
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1028

ACROSS

1 Concealed
4 It's wide in a May-December romance
10 Quaint words of worry
14 "I love," to Ovid
15 Elaborate architectural style
16 Mineral in thin sheets
17 With 62-Across, question in a children's song
20 Seoul's land
21 Yoko who loved John
22 Hellish suffering
23 Yukon S.U.V. maker
25 Justice Sotomayor
27 Entertain in a festive manner
30 *It's a happening place
34 *Sophocles tragedy
37 Ram's mate

DOWN

38 Rants
39 Action before crying "You're it!"
40 Full political assemblies
42 Summer: Fr.
43 *British luxury S.U.V.
45 *Star-making title role for Mel Gibson
48 Oozed
49 the Cow (Borden symbol)
52 TV forensic series
53 Old Olds model
56 Tivo, for one
58 Words often after the lowest-priced in a series of items
62 See 17-Across
65 Sorority's counterpart, for short
66 Infuse with oxygen
67 Extra periods of play, in brief

DOWN

1 Dove's opposite
2 "If you ask me," in chat rooms
3 Thinker's counterpart
4 Localized charts
5 Liquidy gunk
6 Verbal feedback?
7 Fancy dresses
8 Sneezer's sound
9 "The Raven" writer
10 Pricey watches
11 Song syllables before "It's off to work we go"
12 Thom shoes
13 "Duck soup"
18 Jackson a.k.a. Mr. October
19 Reason for a game delay
24 Gulager of "The Last Picture Show"
26 Veto
27 Rodeo rope
28 Sidled (along)
29 "Compo" — used?
31 "Pet" annoyance
32 Possessed
33 Tiny bit of crying
34 City near Provo
35 Managed
36 Messy Halloween missiles

DOWN

68 1970s-'80s sitcom diner
69 Secret get-togethers
70 Oink : pig :: : cow

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	A	D	E	M	I	C	E	M	E	A	T	O	F
E	C	O	N	I	C	E	W	A	R	F	A	R	E
L	O	S	A	N	G	E	L	E	S	T	I	M	E
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U	G	A	P	I	E	R	O						
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C	H	A	N	S	O	N	S	D	E	G	E	S	
S	E	T	S	O	N	A	P	E	D	E	S	T	

PUZZLE BY ED SESSA

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53	54	55			56		57	58	59	60	61	
62				63			64					
65					66					67		
68					69					70		

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EVENT PREVIEW

Grad student brings work to life

By Eleanor Dearman
@EllyDearman

Katie Bender left the world of acting to be a playwright. After being on stage for most of her life, the third year graduate student took control of her creative process, which resulted in “The Fault” — a new work, selected to show beginning Tuesday as part of UT’s theater season.

“This play started with a lot of free writing, and I had no idea where it was going,” Bender said. “The only thing I knew was that it had to do with the redwoods and the ocean and this tiny house with a crack in the middle of it.”

“The Fault” is the story of three sisters struggling to find their place and identity in the world, either through a location or personal relationships. The play grapples with the theme of inheritance, its characters struggling with the stories, addictions and personalities passed down from their parents.

“What would be amazing is if the audience felt they saw some of their own families’ patterns in here,” Bender said. “And thought about the patterns they’ve picked up from their parents, and the patterns they pass on to their children.”

Each sister has her own challenges to face. The youngest, Star, is sweet but struggles with drug addiction; middle sister Jane is smart and desperately wants to escape by leaving for college; and the oldest and toughest, Angie, has been

kicked out of the house and also has a drug problem.

“This play really clearly deals with those three sisters,” director Charles Otte said. “How they need to figure out their lives themselves and in some ways become adults and break free of their parents in order to fulfill their own lives.”

Estrella Gonzales, theatre and dance junior, who plays Angie in “The Fault,” said that she had to explore the source of Angie’s anger and drug addiction.

“That has been a struggle, as far as playing this character, just really trying to grasp the mentality of all the hardship she must have gone through to make her the way she is, then trying to grapple with her decision to take the drugs and how her family plays into that,” Gonzales said. “How they serve motivation for her to get high and motivation for her to stop.”

The cast and director made sure the play’s story stayed as true to Bender’s script and intent as possible, especially since this is “The Fault’s” first production.

“It’s the challenge of making it personal without ever straying from the truth of Katie’s story,” Gonzales said. “And making sure the family dynamic and the through line of the whole arc of their journey is really clear.”

“The Fault” was inspired by the “alternative lifestyles” of people in Santa Cruz, Calif., where Bender spent part of her youth, and it is loosely



Lowell Bartholome, Raquel Watson and Ellie McBride appear on stage in Katie Bender’s original new work, “The Fault.” The play is about a poor family with three daughters all struggling to find their place in the world.

based on the lives of her sisters. The California setting lends itself to Otte’s interest in projected media.

“Almost everything we are doing involves the use of projected media not only to represent realistic scenes, but also to represent the sometimes subjective, emotional content that’s going on without in the scene,” Otte said.

The set features white panels that can have images projected onto them in addition to other pieces and props.

“We move from inside the house out to the beach. You can see the ocean and you can see the stars,” Otte said. “It’s almost like a living movie in a way where you’re able to bring out elements you wouldn’t be able to bring out in a traditional set.”

Bender had a large part in the set as well as the direction of the show. She frequently attended rehearsals, provided notes and added or rewrote scenes to enhance the play.

“The strange thing about playwrighting is that it really needs a company,” Bender

said. “Writing is pretty lonely. You hope that what you write sounds the way you want people to sound when they talk to each other, but you really have no idea what it sounds like when you’re by yourself.”

New work allows the cast, crew, director and writer to control the creation process of a production in a more direct, collaborative way than when performing a classic play.

“New work is a great way to take that power back and

‘THE FAULT’

When: Dec. 3-7 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

Where: Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

How Much: \$15-\$25

not wait for somebody to write a role that you can play and that you’re going to be passionate and proud putting it on stage,” Gonzales said. “It’s kind of taking that power and saying ‘I’m going to make a piece of art.’”

CITY

New snow park one of many activities to enjoy this winter

By Lauren L’Amie
@lamelamie

The time has come — department store speakers blast holiday radio on repeat, ordinary people allow ornamented trees and creepy bearded dolls in their homes and family gatherings supply no shortage of baked goods and tacky sweaters. The holiday season is an excuse to eat every cookie in sight, but celebrating in Austin means there are creative and unconventional ways to have holiday fun.



Texas Ski Ranch Snow Park

No snow, no slopes, no problem. Texas Ski Ranch has a new addition to their facilities in New Braunfels — a massive outdoor snowboarding park. The park officially opened for Texas-style snowboarding in September, following months of constructing man-made “slopes” and covering them in a special type of AstroTurf that mimics the effects of real snow.

Special events coordinator Catie Bialick said the park was built with beginning riders in mind.

“It’s great for people who are preparing to go to the mountains to learn to board before their trip,” Bialick said. “As we add more and more features we’re getting more advanced riders out here. It’s definitely changing as we build.”

The park partnered with Burton snowboarding company to complete its construction and features learn-to-ride clinics plus a tubing hill. Open

Lauren Frye and Deanne Hufnagel have some holiday fun ice skating at Whole Foods on Sunday afternoon. Whole Foods annually sets up a public ice rink for the holiday season.

ride times are available Wednesday through Sunday. Individual or group lessons can be booked in advance.

Ice Skating on the Plaza at Whole Foods

Indulge in another Texas version of a winter wonderland every day in December — ice skating on top of the Whole Foods downtown location. Each year, the store installs a small covered ice skating rink on their plaza overlooking the downtown skyline. The rink is small but offers the experience of ice skating, even if it’s 70 degrees outside. The rink is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and charges a \$10 entry fee, including skate rentals.

Alamo Drafthouse Christmas Quote-Alongs

The famous Alamo Drafthouse cinema provides a safe haven this holiday season for those unrelenting movie-quote

“As we add more and more features we’re getting more advanced riders out here. It’s definitely changing as we build.”

—Catie Bialick
Special events coordinator for Texas Ski Ranch

maniacs. While the theater hosts numerous interactive screenings and “quote-alongs” year round, this season features some of the most quote-able classics, including “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” “A Christmas Story” and “Elf.”

Also on the schedule this season is the “Xmas Pop Sing-Along,” a night dedicated to singing the best pop renditions of classic Christmas jams, from Mariah Carey and NSYNC to David Bowie. In the wise words of Will Ferrell, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

Show schedules vary by location, and times and

availability can be found on the Alamo Drafthouse website, Drafthouse.com.

Lala’s Christmas-themed Bar

Whether the holidays are coming to a close or have yet to begin, it’s always Christmas at Lala’s. Located on Justin Lane in Allandale, the local dive bar is revered for its cozy atmosphere and year-round dedication to the kitschy spirit of Christmas. The walls are covered in Christmas decor, featuring a tree, lights and a jukebox blaring classic ‘50s tunes and old standards. Get that warm and fuzzy feeling, whether it’s because of the decorations or a shot of whiskey.

City celebrates 30 years of ‘A Christmas Story’

CLEVELAND — Even after three decades, the triple-dog dare doesn’t get old.

“A Christmas Story” opened 30 years ago to mixed reviews but has shown its staying power as a holiday family favorite. Cleveland, where parts of the movie were filmed and hard-luck Ralphie dreamed big, is celebrating the anniversary with iconic leg lamps, holiday store windows like the ones that drew Ralphie’s wide-eyed stares and stage and musical versions of “A Christmas Story.”

“It becomes part of your fabric for your whole life,” said Kevin Moore, managing director of the Cleveland Play House, where the stage version of the story has become a holiday staple.

In the film, starring Darren McGavin as the father, 9-year-old Ralphie was transfixed by the brightly decorated storefront windows. He dreamed of getting an air rifle as a Christmas gift, despite warnings that he might shoot his eye out.

The Cleveland house where Ralphie’s film family lived will highlight the anniversary Friday and Saturday with appearances

by original cast members and a BB-gun range in the backyard.

Like any holiday favorite, a sense of wonder is needed for “A Christmas Story” and 8-year-old Colin Wheeler thinks he has one to match Ralphie’s.

“We both have really big imaginations,” boasted Wheeler, who plays Ralphie in “A Christmas Story” musical at Cleveland’s Near West Theater.

Across town, the Cleveland Play House production of “A Christmas Story” attracts multi-generational audiences of children, parents and grandparents, Moore said.

Jim Moralevitz, now 73, lives down the street from “A Christmas Story” house and landed a cameo role in the film helping deliver the crate carrying the leg lamp.

Like many of the best holiday classics, the risky business turns cheerful at the end. Now families get together at holiday gatherings to watch the movie or crowd theater performances.

“It fills up the seats because it’s a family experience,” Moore said.

—Associated Press



A leg lamp is framed in the window of the house in Cleveland, where much of the 1983 movie “A Christmas Story” was filmed. A surge of visitors is expected to tour the restored house, and purchase a miniature lamp or two at the gift shop, on the 30th anniversary of the quirky holiday film.

Mark Duncan
Associated Press